



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ENACTMENT OF ANY LABOUR LEGISLATION TIME CONSUMING ...	1
CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES FOR SENILES NEEDED	3
WATER CUT IN KWUN TONG	3
EIGHTY YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TO ATTEND A TWO-DAY ORIENTATION COURSE	4
DONATIONS FOR FIVE VOLUNTARY WELFARE ORGANISATIONS ...	4
MORE ROOM TO INCREASE FISH PRODUCTION	5
SCOUT MOVEMENT HELPS FIGHT CRIME	6
SOCIAL STUDIES SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS	7
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT	7
VISITS TO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION	8

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

- 1 -

PROCESSES OF LABOUR LEGISLATION EXPLAINED

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THE SHEER HARD SLOG OF GETTING AN IMPORTANT BILL ONTO THE STATUTE BOOK WITH ITS MANY CONSULTATIONS, DRAFTINGS, PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES IS LARGELY UNKNOWN AND UNDER-ESTIMATED BY THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT CLUB THAT THE TIME FROM THE CONCEPTION OF IDEAS FOR LABOUR LEGISLATION TO THE FINAL ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE WAS PROTRACTED.

HE WENT ON : +WITH SOME OF THE RECENT CRIES OF ACUTE PAIN EVIDENT IN THE MEDIA FROM SOME EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, THE AVERAGE VIEWER, READER OR LISTENER MIGHT WELL GET THE IMPRESSION THAT EMPLOYERS WERE ALL KEPT ENTIRELY IGNORANT, IN THE DARK, AND UNKNOWING OF THE DEVELOPMENTS AND PROPOSALS FOR LABOUR LEGISLATION.+

+THE IMPRESSION THUS CONVEYED IS SOMEWHAT FAR REMOVED FROM THE REAL PICTURE,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID.

+INDEED FOR ONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE LENGTHY AND TIME-CONSUMING CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, THE CARTOON VISION OF UNSUSPECTING EMPLOYERS' BODIES BEING SMARTLY SAND-BAGGED BY A CAT-FOOTED COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR CREEPING UP BEHIND THEM IS TOO LUDICROUS FOR WORDS.+

MR. HENDERSON SAID THAT LONG BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED THIS SESSION CONSULTATIONS WERE ALREADY WELL ADVANCED ON MANY OF THEM WITH INTERESTED BODIES. +SO THERE WERE REALLY VERY FEW, IF ANY, SURPRISES OF SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME.+

MR. HENDERSON NOTED THAT FEW WORTHWHILE PIECES OF LABOUR LAWS TOOK LESS THAN A YEAR TO 18 MONTHS FROM SERIOUS FIRST PLANNING TO ENACTMENT.

THERE WERE NO SHORT CUTS TO LEGISLATING, HE SAID.

MR. HENDERSON WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION.

HE SAID THE INITIAL FORMAL SOUNDING BOARD AND CRITIC WAS THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD WHICH HAD FOUR WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES, AND FOUR EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES.

THE CONSTITUTION WAS BEING REVISED AND FROM THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR THERE WOULD BE SIX MEMBERS FROM EACH SIDE.

+WHEN PAPERS PUTTING PROPOSALS TO THE BOARD ARE ISSUED,+ MR. HENDERSON WENT ON, +THEY ARE IN MOST CASES SENT ALSO TO THE FOUR MAIN EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY FOR THEIR VIEWS AND COMMENTS.

/OR IN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

- 2 -

+OR IN A FEW CASES, THEY MAY BE SENT AFTER THE BOARD'S INITIAL DISCUSSIONS. IN ANY EVENT ALL THESE ORGANISATIONS WILL BE WELL AWARE OF PROPOSALS LONG BEFORE A BILL IS PUT BEFORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+NOW WHAT IS NOT ALWAYS REALISED IS THAT THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF COMMENT AND CONSULTATION, BUT PART OF THE POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS IN THAT IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE ADVICE GIVEN, VIEWS OFFERED, AND ARROWS OF CRITICISM FIRED, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL THEN SUBMIT HIS PROPOSALS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, MODIFIED AS HE MAY THINK NECESSARY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CRITICISM.

+HE WILL ALSO INDICATE TO THE COUNCIL THE MAIN POINTS OF CRITICISM AND DISAGREEMENT, SO THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS APPRAISED NOT ONLY OF OFFICIAL VIEWS ON THE MATTER.

+ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVICE -- THEN A FORMAL BILL IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE AND A WHOLE NEW ROUND OF COMMENT AND CONSULTATION MAY TAKE PLACE, DEPENDING ON THE IMPORTANCE AND DEGREE OF CONTROVERSIALITY OF THE ISSUE.

+ANY PERSON OR BODY MAY THEN TAKE PART IN THIS PROCESS BY PUTTING THEIR VIEWS TO US, OR THE PRESS OR UMELCO,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID.

+WHILE OBVIOUSLY NOT ALL VIEWS, COMMENTS AND OBJECTIONS MAY AFFECT THE OUTCOME, I CAN ASSURE YOU THEY ARE ALL HEARD AND CONSIDERED.+

MR. HENDERSON SAID THERE WAS SOME EXPECTATION THAT DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR HEADS SHOULD CONTINUOUSLY ENTER INTO PUBLIC DEBATES IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE DURING THESE CONSULTATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

HE SAID: +I THINK RATHER IT IS OUR DUTY TO LISTEN, CLARIFY WHERE NECESSARY, BUT NOT PERSISTENTLY TO INTERVENE.+

+AS A PREVIOUS COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR SAID IN 1968 IT WOULD BE MISLEADING TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND DEROGATORY TO (LEGISLATIVE) COUNCIL IF A BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT OF PROGRESS WAS TO BE MADE PUBLIC.+

MR. HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT OCCASIONALLY, ON A MAJOR SOCIAL POLICY ISSUE SUCH AS SEVEN DAYS ANNUAL LEAVE, THE ADVICE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WAS SOUGHT OR GIVEN BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER PUT THE MATTER FORWARD FOR DEBATE IN THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLICLY.

+THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT CONSULTATION IS PRE-EMPTED, AND THAT THE FORM AND DETAIL OF THE PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION BEFORE A BILL IS GAZETTED,+ HE SAID.

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/3

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

- 3 -

CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES FOR SENILES NEEDED
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THE DEMAND FOR CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES FOR THE SENILE AND INFIRM OLD PEOPLE IS BECOMING GREATER AND IS CAUSING MORE PUBLIC CONCERN, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE FOUNDATION-STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE BUDDHIST PO CHING CARE AND ATTENTION HOME IN FANLING, HE PRAISED THE HEUNG HOI CHING KOK LIN ASSOCIATION FOR ACCEPTING THE SUGGESTION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO SET UP A CARE AND ATTENTION HOME FOR THE SENILE AND INFIRM OLD PEOPLE WHOSE SPECIAL NEEDS COULD NOT BE PROVIDED FOR IN OTHER ORDINARY HOMES FOR THE AGED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE ONLY TWO SUCH CENTRES BOTH OPERATED ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS. +IT IS APPARENT THAT WE NEED TO DO MORE IN THIS FIELD,+ HE ADDED.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE PO CHING CARE AND ATTENTION HOME, WHEN COMPLETED, WOULD BECOME THE FIRST HOME SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO CATER FOR THIS GROUP OF OLD PEOPLE.

+THIS NOT ONLY WILL BE A NEW VENTURE TO THE ASSOCIATION, BUT WILL ALSO SET AN ENCOURAGING EXAMPLE TO THOSE WHO HAVE THE WELL-BEING OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS AT HEART,+ HE SAID.

TO ASSIST THE ASSOCIATION TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT, HE CONTINUED, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT MADE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TO MEET PART OF THE BUILDING COSTS.

+BUT CREDITS ARE DUE TO THE PROMOTERS WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD AND CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN,+ HE SAID.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 18) TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY SAU MAU PATH, SAU MAU PING ROAD, SAU MING ROAD, INCLUDING BLOCK NOS. 32 TO 41 SAU MAU PING ESTATE.

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/4

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

- 4 -

ORIENTATION COURSE ON COMMUNITY SERVICE
FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS
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EIGHTY YOUTH VOLUNTEERS WILL ATTEND A TWO-DAY ORIENTATION COURSE ON COMMUNITY SERVICE AT THE LIONS Y.M.C.A. YOUTH CAMP IN JUNK BAY THIS WEEKEND.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EIGHT ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE COURSE AIMS TO PROMOTE THE CONCEPT OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC SKILL IN ORGANISING GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS.

THE COURSE WILL COVER A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS INCLUDING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A VOLUNTEER, THE TECHNIQUES IN LEADING GROUP GAMES AND PROGRAMME PLANNING. IT WILL BE RUN IN THE FORM OF LECTURES, OPEN FORUMS, GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND WORKSHOP.

MR. LAM KWOK-WAN, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER OF THE GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 18) AT 3.30 P.M. IN THE YOUTH CAMP.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID: +AT PRESENT, THE EIGHT ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT SPONSORED SOME 30 SELF-PROGRAMMING YOUTH GROUPS WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS. MOST OF THEM ARE SERVICE-ORIENTATED.+

+THE COURSE+ HE ADDED, +IS DESIGNED TO EQUIP THE OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS WITH MORE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOWS IN RELATION TO THEIR GROUP ACTIVITIES.+

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DONATIONS FOR FIVE VOLUNTARY WELFARE ORGANISATIONS
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MONEY RAISED DURING THE RECENT AUTUMN FAIR ORGANISED BY THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WILL BE DONATED TO FIVE VOLUNTARY WELFARE ORGANISATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT SPORTS ASSOCIATION TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIVE ORGANISATIONS TO RECEIVE THE MONEY ARE THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION, THE CARITAS LOK HEEP CLUB, THE HONG KONG SEA SCHOOL, THE HONG KONG DISCHARGED PRISONERS AID SOCIETY AND THE SALVATION ARMY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 3 P.M. IN THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF THE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUILDING.

MR. W.T. CHOI OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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/5

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

- 5 -

MORE ROOM TO INCREASE FISH PRODUCTION

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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. E.H. NICHOLS, THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING, PRAISED THE NEW TERRITORIES FISH FARMERS FOR INCREASING THE LEVEL OF PRODUCTION AND SAID THERE +IS STILL ROOM FOR A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY.+

SPEAKING AT THE 11TH TERM INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG NEW TERRITORIES FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION AND THE OPENING OF THE ASSOCIATION'S NEW PREMISES IN YUEN LONG, HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS MUST BE SOLVED SO THAT THE FISH FARMERS COULD INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION.

HE SAID WAYS AND MEANS OF REDUCING THE LOSSES DUE TO THE FLOODING ASSOCIATED WITH HEAVY RAINFALL PRODUCED BY TYPHOONS MUST BE FOUND= MORE INTENSIVE FORMS OF CULTURE MUST BE PRACTISED AND FASTER GROWING FISH SPECIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

ALSO, MR. NICHOLS CONTINUED, GREATER ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO NUTRIENT CONTENT OF FEEDS AND TO FEEDING PRACTICES= WATER QUALITY MUST BE IMPROVED AND GREATER ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO TIME OF HARVESTING.

+MY DEPARTMENT IS GIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THOSE MATTERS WHICH AIM, BASICALLY, AT INTENSIFYING THE TRADITIONAL FISH FARMING SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

+THE ONUS OF DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITY, HOWEVER, RESTS WITH YOU, THE PRACTISING FISH FARMERS= SINCE NOW IT IS ONLY BY INTENSIFYING THE SYSTEMS USED THAT THE EXCELLENT PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE PAST WILL BE CONTINUED IN THE FUTURE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. NICHOLS POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF FISH FARMERS HAD GROWN DRAMATICALLY FROM 30 IN 1955 TO 361 THIS YEAR.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT IN 1970 THERE WERE SOME 2,250 ACRES OF FISH PONDS PRODUCING OVER 35,000 PICULS OF FISH. FIVE YEARS LATER, THE ACREAGE HAD INCREASED BY ABOUT 57 PER CENT TO ABOUT 3,550 ACRES AND PRODUCTION HAD INCREASED BY A STARTLING 110 PER CENT TO JUST UNDER 74,000 PICULS.

THIS, HE EMPHASISED, REPRESENTED AN INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY FROM 16 PICULS PER ACRE TO ALMOST 21 PICULS PER ACRE.

HOWEVER, MR. NICHOLS WENT ON, THE SPACE WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE AREA UTILISED FOR FISH PONDS.

+ANY INCREASE IN PRODUCTION MUST, THEREFORE, ARISE FROM FURTHER INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY,+ HE ADDED.

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/6

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

- 6 -

SCOUT MOVEMENT HELPS FIGHT CRIME

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THE SCOUT MOVEMENT HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME IN RECENT YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT AN INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR OFFICE BEARERS OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE RATE OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY PERSONS UNDER 16 HAD FALLEN FROM 10 PER CENT TO SEVEN PER CENT.

+THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT, BY PROVIDING A HEALTHY OUTLET, HAS CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THIS IMPROVED SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, FOR EXAMPLE, SCOUT MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN 60 PER CENT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.+

MR. AKERS-JONES, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE NT REGIONAL SCOUT COUNCIL, SAID THAT SCOUTING CARRIED A STRICT DISCIPLINE COMBINED WITH THE LOFTY CONCEPT OF SERVING OTHERS.

HE ADDED THAT THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION IN TUEN MUN WAS PLANNING TO BUILD ITS OWN WELL-EQUIPPED SCOUT CENTRE.

+I HOPE THAT THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE JOINED BY OTHER CIVIC-MINDED PEOPLE IN EXTENDING FACILITIES TO THE YOUTH OF THE DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

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/7

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

- 7 -

SOCIAL STUDIES SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS
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A SEMINAR ON THE TEACHING OF SOCIAL STUDIES WILL BE HELD AT GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, KOWLOON, ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 18) AT 9.15 A.M.

THE SEMINAR IS FOR TEACHERS IN THE 15 SCHOOLS MONITORED BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND IN 27 OTHER SCHOOLS TEACHING THE PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

THE AIMS OF THE SEMINAR ARE THREE-FOLD -- TO GIVE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON HOW SOCIAL STUDIES IS BEING TAUGHT IN ENGLAND, TO DISCUSS THE TEACHING PROGRESS IN SOCIAL STUDIES IN FORMS 1-2, AND TO CONDUCT AN EVALUATION EXERCISE OF PART OF THE FORM 2 PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MR. A.J. REEVE WILL GIVE THE OPENING ADDRESS AT THE SEMINAR WHILE THE PRINCIPAL CURRICULUM PLANNING OFFICER (SECONDARY), MRS. LOUISE MOK WILL ADVISE ON THE PROCEDURE OF EVALUATION.

TALKS ON +RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TEACHING OF SOCIAL STUDIES IN ENGLAND+ WILL BE GIVEN BY MRS. LUK LI SHIU-PUI, SENIOR LECTURER OF SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, AND MISS GRACE WONG, SENIOR GEOGRAPHY MISTRESS OF LUNG CHEUNG GOVERNMENT SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE RECENTLY ATTENDED A COURSE ON SOCIAL STUDIES IN ENGLAND.

A COLLECTION OF SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHING MATERIALS USED IN ENGLAND WILL ALSO BE ON DISPLAY AT THE SEMINAR.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE SEMINAR COVERED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT
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PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER KESWICK STREET AND THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF NORTH POINT ROAD FROM JAVA ROAD FROM 10 A.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY) (DECEMBER 17) UNLESS AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE AUTHORITY, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO INDICATE THE PROHIBITION.

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/8

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

- 8 -

VISITS TO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION
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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, MR. Q.W. LEE, AND ANOTHER MEMBER, MR. HENRY LIM, VISITED TWO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN KOWLOON THIS MORNING.

THEY HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS OF THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WHO BRIEFED THEM ON DEVELOPMENTS IN TEACHER TRAINING.

WHILE THEY WERE AT GRANTHAM, THEY SAW, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIRD YEAR STUDENTS DOING POTTERY IN THE ARTS STUDIOS AND ANOTHER GROUP OF THIRD YEAR STUDENTS UNDERGOING PHYSICAL EDUCATION TRAINING.

AT SIR ROBERT BLACK, THEY CHATTED INFORMALLY WITH SOME HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND VISITED THE LIBRARY AND LANGUAGE LABORATORY. THEY ALSO SAW TUTORIAL GROUPS IN ACTION.

YESTERDAY, THREE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD -- PROFESSOR M.A. BRIMER, REV. DEREK REID AND MR. T.C. CHENG -- VISITED THE EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION STUDIOS IN BROADCAST DRIVE. THEY WERE BRIEFED BY THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR. JIMMY HAWTHORNE AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, (ETV), MR. SUN PING-HSU.

LATER THE THREE MEMBERS TOURED THE HOLY CARPENTER PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL WHICH OFFERS THREE YEARS OF JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH 50 PER CENT OF ITS CURRICULUM ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS -- ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL AND AUTOMOBILE.

THE CURRENT SERIES OF VISITS BY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 2.

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